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A
DECLARATION
OF THE
LORD MAIOR,
ALDERMEN,
AND
COMMONS
Of the
City of London,
IN
Common-Councell assembled.

Printed by Richard Cotes, Printer to the Honourable
City of LONDON, 1647.

c/d

London, Common
Council, Court of

550

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A

DECLARATION

OF THE

Lord Major, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *LONDON*, in
Common-councell assembled.



Now, and by what Authority, and under what pretences, His Majesty was surpris'd at *Foldenby*, where Hee was placed by consent of both Kingdomes; and how thence removed, and at last brought into the Army; under whose power His Royall Person hath ever since been kept, and carry'd to and fro, notwithstanding

that His surprisall was disowned by the Generall for himselfe, and all the Officers about him, and for the Body of the Army: and that since both Houses of Parliament had required His Royall Person to be brought to *Whitehall*, and there left in the hands of the Commissioners of Parliament

Letter to the
Speaker from
the Generall,
dated 6 Junij
1647.

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who

Manifesto of
the Army, 27.
Iunii, 1647.

who attended him at *Holdenby*: Contrary to all which, the Army yet deny, That no place might be proposed for His Majesties residence nearer London, then where they would allow the Quarters of the Army to bee. All these things we doubt not but by this time are so evidently known and apparent to the whole Kingdome, that wee shall not need to insist upon any particular discovery thereof. And wee believe that the right understanding and wel-affected people of this Kingdome, who remember, and still adhere unto the Covenant which they have made with God, have all along observed, in what manner the Army, in the posture whereinto they have put themselves, have ever since proceeded with the Parliament and City, and sought to improve their interest throughout the Kingdome. Wee, for our parts, shall not presume to deliver any thing of our sense upon that which hath been altered, acted, or consented unto by both Houses at the instance, interposition, or importunity of the Army; but only desire hereby to give a true account unto the Kingdome, upon what grounds and reasons we have been led to concur with the Army, in many of their late desires to the Parliament, (which happily may have beene looked upon with some admiration) and what our just ends and aimes were, in sending down and continuing a Committee of Aldermen and Citizens in the Army all this time.

The City Remonstrance and Petition of the 26. of May, 1646. our Petition and Representation of the 19 of December, 1646. and our Petition of the 17 of March last, 1646. in the two last of which the disbanding of the Army was particularly and especially insisted upon, have we are confident satisfied all moderate and unbyassed men, that wee were desirous, upon the first opportunity which God gave us, to expresse our great zeal for the settlement of Peace in this Kingdome by establishing of the true Religion, restoring His Majesty to His just Rights and Authority, maintaining the Priviledges of Parliament, easing the great charge of the Kingdome, securing the people in their lawful Liber-

ties.

ties and properties, and relieving our distressed fellow Subjects and Protestants in *Ireland*; And in order hereunto, wee have given two such signall Testimonies, in that wee were the principall Leaders and Encouragers to the first advancing of 200000. *l.* towards the satisfaction of our Brethren of *Scotland*, when they had agreed to returne to their Country, and to this latter suddaine raising of the like summe of 200000. *l.* for the payment of this Army, (and the affaires of *Ireland*) when the Parliament had resolved upon the disbanding and disposing of so many of the Army as the Kingdome had no further use of, as we will hope that all men have beene cleerely convinced of our sincere intentions, as much as lay in us, and as farre as it was fit for us to appeare therein, to improve our utmost indeavours, to make the way open to an happy composition of all things. And when the Army refused to disband, and had possessed themselves of the person of the King, thereby justifying that bold seizure of Him, which the Generall at first disclaimed as aforesaid, and that the Army was upon their March or, as they called it, drawing neare to *London*, and that this City was in a manner Summoned by a Letter of the 10. *June* last, under the hands of the Generall, and other Prime Officers of the Army, although the Parliament were at that time sensible enough of the strange carriage of the Army towards them, and notwithstanding that the Armies lying so long neare to the City, did very much hinder and impaire the Trade thereof, to the great prejudice of the City in particular, and of the Kingdome in generall; yet wee to shew how much we were desirous to avoid the occasion of a new War, did make bold often to addresse our selves to the Parliament, and joyned with the Army in many of their demands to the Honorable Houses, sent down a Committee of Aldermen, and Citizens to reside in the Army to maintaine all good correspondence on both sides, and although the Army a long time hovered near the Parliament and City,

Votes of the
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Commons 25
Junij 1647.

wee still omitted no endeavours or good Offices on our parts, as farre as wee could well appeare for them, to manifest how carefull we were to uphold a good understanding between the Army and the Citie. What violation the Priviledges of the House of Commons suffered when the eleven accused Members were enforced by the Army to withdraw themselves after it was declared upon the Question, *That by the Lawes of the Land, no judgement can bee given to suspend those Members, or any of them from sitting in the House upon the Papers presented from the Army before Particulars produced and proofes made;* And in what manner the Parliament have to satisfie the Army, as it were renounced all Forraigne Ayde under what pretence soever, even such as are under the same Covenant with them; These things wee say being transacted by the Representative Body of the whole Kingdome, and publick every where, It is evident what great influence, to say no more, the Army hath throughout had upon the Councells of Parliament. And for this Citie, it hath suffered it selfe to bee so bounded by the Army in relation to any preparation for its owne Guard and Defence, whilst yet the Army is recruited, and the Souldiers of the whole Kingdome invited to joyne with them, that the Citie hath beene very much exposed to hazard and danger thereby. Yet although this Army bee invested with the whole Power of the Land-Forces of this Kingdome under pay of the Parliament, when there is nothing left that can probably make any considerable resistance, and that it was expected they should fall roundly upon those things which concerned the Publick onely; as they professed from the beginning; The Army contrary to that which they declared in their said Letter of the tenth of June last unto the Citie, and their Declaration or Representation of the foureteenth of June, that they would not goe beyond their desires at that time expressed, and for other particulars would acquiesce, in the wisdom and justice of the Parliament, now demand the Militia of the Citie of London, which had been established by Ordinance of Parliament of the 4. of May last, to continue for an whole yeare in the

the hands of such, as by their authority were nominated by the Lord Major, Aldermen, & Commons in Common-Councell assembled, and desire the same to be put into other hands; & so far prevail with the Parliament that they immediatly consented thereunto, although formerly they never made choyse of, enlarged, or changed this *Militia* of *London*, but they still were pleased first to Communicate the same unto the Court of Common-Councell of this City. But wee humbly and thanketully acknowledge that upon our humble Petition the Parliament presently recalled the same, and re-established the *Militia* appointed by Ordinance of the 4. of *May* last as aforesaid. And therefore being thus awakened by the unexpected and undeserved interposition of the Army in the *Militia* of the City, which wee must protest to be subject to no other Cognizance but of the King and Parliament, and having experience how strongly the Army have ever insisted upon any thing they once demanded, wee cannot but fore-see, how farre our proceeding in the businesse may be misrepresented to the Kingdome, and mis-understood by those, who from the great professions of the Army, have, or doe expect from them a speedy settlement of the peace of the Kingdome, and so may be possessed with something, as if wee by contesting for our *Militia* did seeke to retard the same. And this hath cast us upon this Declaration, wherein although wee have unwillingly beene enforced to touch upon some proceedings of the army with the Parliament and this Citie, which preceded their intermedling with our *Militia*, yet wee could not omit the same, that wee might make it cleare to the Kingdome, what little reason the army had, when they had obtained so much from the Parliament, and that the Citie had so farre complied with them, at last to demand the change of that *Militia*, which never moved in any thing without our Cognizance, and so could never give the Army any just cause of exception. And we will hope that all the Kingdome will be fully satisfied hereby, how extremely desirous wee have beene all along to avoid giving any just

just cause of offence, or provocation, and bee convinced that wee could not in honour doe lesse then wee have done to preserve our Interest in so great a part of our Government. For our parts, wee call God to witnesse wee have a Brotherly sense of the many great pressures under which the Countrey must needs lie by quartering the Army; and when the Army shall bee ready, of which they have given the Kingdome so great hopes, to offer any thing to the Parliament for the settlement of the Publike, None shall more readily and zealously joyne with them therein, then wee, who from the bottome of our hearts abhorre the thought of a new Warre. But if this Vindication of our Right in the *Militia* of this Citie, shall be thought by the Army, to be a just cause for them, either to divert them from falling speedily upon that which concernes the publike Peace, or to cast them upon any extraordinary courses, let God, the Kingdome, and the whole world bee judge betweene them and us.

As for that Petition and Engagement which hath lately been set on foot in the name of divers *Citizens, Commanders, Officers, and Souldiers of the Trained Bands and Auxiliaries, the Young Men and Apprentices of the Cities of London and Westminster, Sea Commanders, Seamen and Watermen, together with divers other Commanders, officers, and Souldiers within the Line of Communication and Parishes mentioned in the Weekly Bills of Mortality*, directed unto the Lord Major, Aldermen & Commons in the Common or Guild-hall assembled, upon which the Army also have by their Letter of the 23. of *July* last at large given us their sense; To this wee have no more to say, but that for as much as wee can collect, we find this Petition and Engagement to bee occasioned from the intelligence which came from the Army, that they would demand the alteration of the *Militia* of this Citie; at which, if our *Citizens* and other *Inhabitants* tooke the Alarme, the distemper which it begot cannot be charged on the Government of the Citie; Neither can we see, why the Army should take notice thereof, it being onely intended to the Common-Hall, but never presented, even as the Petition of their Souldiery was to their Generall, which being taken notice of by the Parliament as it was in agitation,

tion, was then so deeply resented by the Souldiary, that from thence hath followed the putting of the Army into that posture wherein now it is: Having thus cleared our selves from any design to embroyle our selves or the Kingdome in a new war, we finde our selves obliged (by which also wee hope the whole world will be the more fully satisfied of our desires for a speedy, firme, and just Peace) to declare unto the whole kingdome the bottome of our hearts and affections, as in relation unto his Majesty, whom we have alwaies and shall ever acknowledge to be our true and only Sovereigne, although his Royall Person have during these distractions been divided from us. Our Remonstrance, Representation, and Petition before mentioned, and a latter Petition to both Houses on the 17 of *March*, last, presently after his Majestie came to *Holdenby*, have, we doubt not, already justified us: that in al our addressses to the Parliament, upon all occasions which did concerne the Publique, wee have ever remembred to expresse our earnest desires for his Majesties Honorable and speedy returne to His Houses of Parliament: And since his surprisall, wee have with much longing attended what the Army would propound concerning His Majestie in particular, according to the greater expectation which they have raised in the people, from that which they have hinted in their Declaration or Representation, and other Papers, of their intentions towards His Majesty. But upon what great affaires conducing to the ends, the Army at first professed, the time hath been hitherto spent, and nothing done, but to get the whole power of the Kingdome and City into their hand, is sufficiently apparent.

Wee therefore doe in the presence of Almighty God proteste that there is nothing in the world that wee more desire then that His Majestie may be put and left free, in such an Honorable Condition and capacity, as His Person may appeare to be at liberty, to receive & treat upon such Propositions as shall be presentd unto Him from the Parliaments of both His Kingdomes. For our consciences tell us, that whilst His Royall Per-

son is invironed by an army, and remaines under the power thereof, wee cannot expect that either His Majesties Princely heart can give that free assent unto those things which shall be propounded unto Him as is requisite, or if He doe cannot hope, with good reason, that wee and our Posterity shall, without alteration, enjoy the same. And therefore wee are resolved earnestly, yet with humility, to apply our selves to the Parliament to this purpose, and hope that all good Subjects, who are touched with any sence of that Duty and Allegiance which by the Law of God and man they owe unto their King, will unanimously joyne with us therein.

Wee cannot omit also to declare unto the Kingdome, how we have sadly observed, since the Eleven accused Members withdrew themselves, and that the Army hath dayly growne upon the Parliament, that a very great and considerable number of other Members of the House of Commons have also retyred themselves, to the endangering of the Kingdome, which never more needed a full Councell: And therefore, we shall make our speedy addresse to the honourable House of Commons, to call in all the Members of their House, residing in the Army, or retyred to their dwellings, by leave of the House, or otherwise: And we shall particularly insist upon the readmission of the Eleven Members, lately driven out of the House of Commons, by the violent pursuit of the Army, contrary to the sence of the same House, the Law of the Land, and the Priviledges of Parliament; wherein also, wee are confident, all good Englishmen and lovers of their Countrey, will adhere unto Them and Us.

Wee should expresse our selves further to vindicate this City before the Kingdome, from the aspersions which may have, throughout these distractions, been cast upon this City, to have been the first Promoters and Contrivers of this unnatural Warre: which God for the sinns of this Nation hath brought upon the Kingdome: But that God is our witnes, how desirous We have been at all times, and still are, of a safe and well grounded Peace, and with what fellow-feeling we have looked

looked upon the Miseries, which this long Warre hath brought upon our fellow-Subjects throughout the Countrey.

And thus as we have herein truly and cleerly stated the matter of difference (if it can be called any) betweene Us and the Army, To wit, this alone, *That we could not submit the Militia of this Citie to be altered at the pleasure of an Army, after it had bene so orderly settled in the Hands of such as were intrusted therewith, for one whole yeare, when there was a full and free Parliament :* So wee finde it more then Time, that the whole Kingdome were possessed with the true State thereof: And therefore, and to this end, we have bene necessitated to this Declaration: whereby, as we are confident, the whole Kingdome will cleerly discover, upon whom the guilt of a new Warre (which we doe still, and shall ever abhorre) must justly lye : So, and no otherwise shall we expect a blessing from Almighty God, in our just defence, (if we must be put upon the same) then as from the bottome of our hearts, We sincerely desire, an happy and speedy Peace, by the *settlement of true Religion in this Kingdome* by *re-establishing his Majestie in His just Rights and Authority*, by *upholding all lawfull Priviledges of a free Parliament*, by *maintaining the Fundamentall Lawes of the Land*, by *restoring and securing the Subject unto, and in his just Liberty and Property*, and by *freeing this long oppressed Kingdome of all taxes, and enforced free Quarters, towards the maintenance of an Army, which of a long time hath had no visible Enemy to encounter :* And from this Resolution, by the blessing of God, we shall never recede, for any earthly Consideration or advantage whatsoever.

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